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BOOK REVIEWS

Selected Readings in Public Finance. By CHARLES J. BULLOCK, Assistant Professor of Economics, Harvard University. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1906. 8vo, pp. viii+671.

In this volume is brought together a very considerable amount of selected readings in public finance. These selections have been systematically arranged, constituting chapters and sections devoted respectively to the topics ordinarily considered in any course in public finance. The object of the editor has been to provide collateral reading for such a course. The selections are for the most part brief, each chapter being composed of a number of quotations from standard writers, reports of commissioners, special monographs, or magazine articles. The systematic composition of these selections, together with comments by the editor constitute in fact a textbook in public finance of composite authorship. The volume is one in the series of Selections and Documents in Economics edited by Professor Ripley of Harvard, and ought to prove of great value to teachers in small colleges.

British Canals: Is Their Resuscitation Practicable? By EDWIN A. PRATT. London: John Murray, 1906. 8vo, pp. xi+159.

The rehabilitation of waterways, natural and artificial, has become a practical problem in British politics, and one of increasing interest, more or less associated with the movement for municipal and government ownership. Through the re-establishment of water transportation by government aid it is felt pressure can be brought to bear upon the railroads, forcing them to reduce rates. Mr. Pratt notes the interesting fact that the railroads themselves were originally constructed in many instances for the purpose of bringing similar pressure to bear upon the old canal companies, to reduce their rates. He concludes that the cost of widening and straightening the old canals, and of construction of new ways, would be today so great as to prove an unprofitable investment, and that waterways could not compete successfully with railways, even in the transportation of